

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 10084 041734Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 COME-00 OES-07 AID-05 DHA-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
PRS-01 SP-02 /071 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3186
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ATHENS 10084

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, GR
SUBJ: HEAVIEST RAINFALLS IN 50 YEARS CAUSE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE
IN ATHENS AREA

1. HEAVY RAINFALLS ESTIMATED AT MORE THAN SIX INCHES CAUSED WIDESPREAD DAMAGE IN THE GREATER ATHENS AREA THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER 2. SO FAR, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT 24 PEOPLE DROWNED AND APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED WERE LEFT HOMELESS AS A RESULT OF THE THREE-HOUR RAINSTORM WHICH SWEEPED THROUGH THE AREA. PROPERTY DAMAGE IS ESTIMATED AT SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DRACHMAS. THE MOST EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS SUSTAINED IN THE PIRAEUS AREA WHERE HUNDREDS OF HOMES WERE DAMAGED AND HUNDREDS OF AUTOMOBILES WERE DESTROYED, AND IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF ATHENS WHERE MORE THAN 500 HOUSES AND SHOPS WERE FLOODED. THERE WAS POWER FAILURE IN SEVERAL AREAS, AND AROUND FORTY THOUSAND TELEPHONES WERE OUT OF COMMISSION AT SOME TIME.

2. PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER STRATOS SAID THE THUNDERSTORM WAS THE HEAVIEST RECORDED DURING THE LAST 50 YEARS. IN NOVEMBER 1961, THERE WAS A THUNDERSTORM WHICH KILLED 40 PEOPLE, DESTROYED 900 HOUSES AND LEFT 2,951 HOMELESS. HOWEVER, THE AMOUNT OF RAINFALL RECORDED WAS NOT AS HEAVY AS THE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 10084 041734Z

STORM TWO DAYS AGO.

3. PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS ORDERED EMERGENCY RELIEF MEASURES AS FOLLOWS: A) IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THE FLOOD; B) IMMEDIATE REPAIR OF DAMAGED STREETS AND REMOVAL OF DEBRIS WHERE STREETS ARE BLOCKED; C) GRANTING OF LOANS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF BUSINESSES

WHICH SUFFERED DAMAGE OR LOSS; AND D) A DETAILED ESTIMATE
OF ALL DAMAGES SUSTAINED IN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS AND
PUBLIC WORKS AND IMMEDIATE REPAIR WHERE NECESSARY.

4. ARMY UNITS WERE MOBILIZED TO OFFER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
DURING THE FLOOD. ONE THOUSAND MEN WITH TRUCKS, EARTH
MOVERS, AND OTHER EQUIPMENT RENDERED ASSISTANCE.
MILLS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: METEOROLOGY, NATURAL DISASTERS, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770407-0436
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: SWEL, GR
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